Construction of Yatri Niwas

1615. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri Niwas in various States including Delhi as on date, location-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal for constructing Yatri Niwas in various States during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The figures relating to the non-classified accommodation units including Yatri Niwas are not maintained by the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Bed and breakfast scheme for tourists

1616. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched a new scheme namely Bed and Breakfast Scheme permitting private house owners to rent out a portion of their accommodation to tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received from the house owners expressing interest to participate under the scheme and number of house owners that were granted license under the scheme as on 31st December, 2006; and

(d) the number of cities in which the scheme has been launched?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main requisite of the scheme is that only those home owners,

who are able to offer a minimum of one room or a maximum of five rooms of prescribed specification and who are physically residing in the premises are eligible to apply for this scheme. The idea is to provide a clean and affordable place for foreign and domestic tourists and an opportunity to stay with an Indian family to experience local customs and traditions and relish authentic local cuisine.

(c) 102 applications have been received as of today from house owners in the Northern Region out of which 5 were approved as on 31st December, 2006.

(d) This scheme has been launched all over the country and a pilot project has been taken up in Delhi.

World Bank assistance for water restructuring project

†1617. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water restructuring project is being run with assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the number of schemes to be revived and modernized under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Water Sector restructuring/improvement projects are being implemented with the World Bank assistance in the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water Management Project has since been approved for external assistance and agreement with the World Bank signed on 12.2.2007. The Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project has been taken up by the World Bank for appraisal.

(b) and (c) Statement showing details of the projects is enclosed.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.